

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 3 and ending at page 47, line 13, as follows:

J | -- The DNA fragment encoding HIV gag was then cloned into an alphavirus plasmid DNA vector (ELVIS), and replicon vectors (SINBV and SINCR) to be used for the generation of recombinant alphavirus particles. Specifically, a construct for *in vitro* transcription of Sindbis virus RNA vector replicons (pRSIN-luc; Dubensky et al., *J. Virol.* 10: 508-519, 1996) was modified to contain a *PmeI* site for plasmid linearization and a polylinker for insertion of heterologous genes. First, a polylinker was generated using two oligonucleotides that contain the sites *XhoI*, *PmlI*, *ApaI*, *NarI*, *XbaI*, and *NotI*.

XPANXNF: 5'GCA CGT GGG CCC GGC GCC TCT AGA GC

(SEQ ID NO: 35)

XPANXNR: 5'GCT CTA GAG GCG CCG GGC CCA CGT GC

(SEQ ID NO: 36)--